

CLAIMS:

1. A method of generating a synchronisation pulse representing a symbol boundary in a signal comprising useful symbol periods separated by guard spaces, with data in each guard space corresponding to part of the data in a respective useful
5 period, the method comprising processing pairs of samples of a received signal which are separated by a period corresponding to the useful part of the symbol by deriving a first signal dependent upon the relationship between the amplitudes of the samples of each pair, a second signal dependent upon the relationship between the phases of the samples of each pair, combining the first and second signals and generating the
10 synchronisation pulse in response to the resultant signal changing in a predetermined manner.
2. A method as claimed 1, wherein the synchronisation pulse is generated in response to detecting a change in the resulting signal corresponding to
15 termination of processing of the guard space data of the first of multiple versions of the signal subject to respective different delays.
3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, including the step of low-pass filtering the first signal so as to reduce variations in the value of the first signal
20 for successive sample pairs.

4. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, including the step of low-pass filtering the second signal so as to reduce variations in the value of the second signal for successive sample pairs.

5 5. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, including the step of filtering the second signal by tracking values corresponding to relatively high levels of phase difference.

6. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, including the step of
10 applying a filter to the resultant signal so as to combine values of the resultant signal with values for corresponding parts of different symbols, and deriving the synchronisation pulse from the filtered resultant signal.

7. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, including subjecting the
15 resultant signal to a median filter prior to deriving the synchronisation pulse.

8. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the first, second and resultant signals are derived in such a way that the resultant signal can fluctuate at intervals which are substantially shorter than the guard space.

9. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, when used for generating a synchronisation pulse representing a symbol boundary in an OFDM signal.

5 10. Apparatus for generating a synchronisation pulse representing a symbol boundary in a signal, the apparatus being arranged to operate in accordance with a method as claimed in any preceding claim.

 11. A receiver comprising means for receiving and demodulating a signal,
10 the receiver comprising apparatus as claimed in claim 10.